

Message

From: Danielle Downey [danielle@projectapism.org]
Sent: 3/12/2021 7:11:58 PM
To: Steeger, Thomas [Steeger.Thomas@epa.gov]
CC: Grace Kunkel [Grace@projectapism.org]
Subject: Re: Nebraska project

Thanks Tom,

This is good insight and context, we appreciate your perspectives and are always glad to hear them as we consider these complicated situations.

I am including Grace to also think about this, so we can be on the lookout to not sensationalize the problem, and also point to solutions.

Thanks,
Danielle

From: Steeger, Thomas <Steeger.Thomas@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2021 11:56 AM
To: Danielle Downey <danielle@projectapism.org>
Subject: RE: Nebraska project

Greetings Danielle,

Yes, I am aware of the situation in Nebraska and have been relaying information as it become available to the neonicotinoid chemical teams here in the Environmental Fate and Effects Division. When Dr. Wu-Smart initially flagged her concerns during a conference call with the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs in June 2020, I asked whether she could provide additional details regarding her colony losses. At that time, it sounded as though she had a single colony that was affected and that colony purportedly had American foul brood. It was unclear to me at that time, why the colony had not been destroyed to prevent the spread of the disease. I listened to a webinar that Dr. Wu-Smart presented to the Nebraska beekeepers later in the summer where she indicated that more colonies were affected and that there may be a possible link to the ethanol plant which was processing pesticide-treated seed. I later encouraged Dr. Wu-Smart to submit a detailed incident report to EPA describing the nature of the losses. While I have sent two reminders, I have yet to receive a detailed summary until seeing the white paper linked to your email. Dr. Wu-Smart has provided residue data through the beekill@epa.gov portal; however, without providing effects data, it is difficult to make inferences. I am glad to read that PAm has provided funding to support residue analyses and is willing to do so to support other urgent situations; however, I believe that this incident underscores the value of having detailed incident reports with which to interpret residue data.

I will let you know if I have any additional comments regarding the white paper.

Thank you very much for the heads up!

Tom

From: Danielle Downey <danielle@projectapism.org>
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2021 1:10 PM
To: Hill2, Elizabeth - OCE <elizabeth.hill2@usda.gov>; Steeger, Thomas <Steeger.Thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: Nebraska project

Hi Izzy and Tom,

I am sure you're aware of this seed recycling misapplication concerns in Nebraska, here's Dr. Judy Wu-Smart's white paper about it.

https://usrtk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Seed-Wetcake-WhitePaper_8_20_20-1.pdf

PAm funded a proposal for Judy to do some further studies, and we will be talking about that in our next newsletter, primarily offering the already published facts and pointing to how PAm can be responsive to support urgent investigations like this. We appreciate the sensitivity of this situation, and since the USDA and EPA are mentioned in some of the reference material, I am sending this 'heads up' and would be glad to hear any comments from your perspectives. Please reach out if you have any questions, we plan to publish the newsletter Monday or Tuesday.

Thanks,
Danielle

Danielle Downey
Executive Director



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